



April 2014

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CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

Affiliated With NYSUT [10-195] & AFT/NEA AFL/CIO-[Local 2991]

News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Well the sun is higher in the sky, but as of today, March 24th, it doesn't feel like Spring. I am looking for better weather. It always helps lift my spirits. In the Spring I find that some days are so nice that it's hard to be in a poor mood. With flowers starting to grow and the trees all in bloom, I smile more. Unfortunately, we're not there yet, but I am optimistic it will be here soon.

Spring is a great time of year. A time where we see things come back to life. It is a time of new hope and a time of renewal. It is a time when feel we can take on new challenges and pursue new adventures.

What an appropriate time to think about the future, what it will be and, perhaps, what it could be. Spring is a great time to look at the challenges ahead and face them straight on. We can then takes steps to shape the future as we want it to be, instead of letting our future shape us, as it often does.

No, I am not saying that we, as individuals can make the future whatever we want. I am saying that we can impact it in a positive way and make it better. And, I believe you already know this. Heck, we do it every day through our students. The work we do helps to improve their lives and the lives of people around them.

On behalf of you and me, I want to thank everyone who is using the MAC or sent a letter(s) to our legislators and governor. Though there seems to continue to be a general shortage of funds, with education getting far less than needed, your efforts have helped improve a misguided budget. By doing so, you help to protect your future

and the futures of our students who so desperately need all the services we can provide. Please keep sending them. It is important that this message be loud and clear. It is important that all our legislators make adequate funding of public education their top priority.

Don't hesitate to solicit friends, neighbors or other teaching professionals to send letters in support of this aid. The voices of thousands of constituents, through letters, phone calls or individual discussions sends a resounding message that we want ringing in the Governor's and our legislators' ears for a long time to come.

Shortly you will receive a letter asking you to contribute to VOTE/COPE. This is how we fund political action, such as lobbying. We do not directly fund it with Association dues. If you do not contribute, shame on you. Not happy with pay and working conditions? Well if you don't give to VOTE/COPE you are still getting **more** than your money's worth. You need to contribute to VOTE/COPE and use the MAC to communicate with our legislators. If you are not doing either you are asking for the rich to walk all over you and take what little you now have. I hope that this is not what you want. Make a sound investment and participate.

You can take the future, your future and help shape it. Isn't that one of the ideals we teach our students? If you stay on the sidelines and rely on other people to do it for you, you are getting **more** than you deserve.

Looking Forward, Doug

CALENDAR

CAPITAL REGION BOCES
FACULTY ASSOCIATION.

REP COUNCIL

April 23, 2014

BOCES BOARD

April 9, 2014



TRIAD Article Deadline

4/28/14 for

May Newsletter

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Celebration Bash

May 15th
Mohawk Country Club
5:00 - hor d'oevres
6:00 - dinner

If you are retiring, please let Brent Pierce know (bmp4sw@gmail.com).

So far - some retirees are - Lanny Barsale, Alan Clarke, Cindy Jennings and Lisa Mink.

NYSUT represents teachers, school-related professionals, higher education faculty, professionals in education, human services and health care, and retirees.

WHO'S PROTECTED, WHO'S NOT



In 2006, New York state enacted the Workplace Violence Prevention Act that requires public employers to develop and implement programs to prevent and minimize workplace violence and to help ensure the safety of public employees.

Public employers include:

- State agencies
- Fire departments
- Political subdivisions of the state
- Public authorities
- School Safety Agents of the NYPD

- Public benefit corporations and any other governmental agency

Excluded employers include:

- Public school districts
- New York City public schools
- BOCES
- County Vocational Education and Extension boards

Tell lawmakers they need to amend the act to include public school employers. Visit NYSUT's Member Action Center at mac.nysut.org to become an e-activist.

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Important Dates for 2013-14

<i>BOCES Board of Education</i>	<i>Representative Council</i>	<i>TRIAD Committee Meeting</i>
April 9, 2014	April 23, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	April 29, 2014
May 19, 2014	May 21, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	May 27, 2014
June 16, 2014	June 11, 2014 900 Watervliet-Shaker Road	None

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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Highlights of Rep Council – March 19, 2014

Submitted by Lanny Barsale

Chapter Vice Presidents Reports – [20 minutes]

Special Education Teachers – Flora Fasoldt

- *The main thing she has been dealing with is that staff have been contacted regarding the audit. Related service provider looking at records but it was billing errors. Her advice is, if asked to provide info, do so. If you don't have the records just say so. Internal audit – when you do make-up sessions and go over IEP – billed 00.00. Only one individual session in a day is billable. Now people are being told to bill. Deputy Director is saying to bill but it will be changed. One person asked when could she use the restroom because she had back-to-back sessions. She was told that she must insert a non-billable. Speech is only 30 minutes.*
- *Health insurance – plan from administration is being looked over by NYSUT*
- *Feds and State Ed no longer use prone restraints – Peter wants policy of zero restraints*
- *She finally got the seniority list.*

Teacher Assistants/Aides - Colleen Condolora

- *She spoke with Peter about \$75 for DASA training. He is waiving cost to our TAs, spec. ed. is picking up cost. They will be given vouchers.*
- *TA showcase – May 20th – 3:00–5:00 PM. Will do three mini-grant winners.*
- *There was a posting for Clerk 1 position for college age interns in the summer.*

Service – Sandy Smith

- *Explained about clerk posting. If you have a college kid, put in for summer work.*
- *Otesaga last weekend. There were openings so let Sandy know that you're interested for the next time.*

CTE teachers - Jeannine Moran

- *She went to ED#10 meeting. Pre-RA. Slate of individuals running against current officers. One of current officers has joined the new slate. They had a debate. Revive NYSUT side accused current slate of officers of not being transparent. Jeannine has list of issues. Passed them out so we can make informed decisions. Go online to get response to the issues.*
- *Meeting on Monday in Saratoga so if you have questions get in touch with Colleen Condolora or Sherry Karcher-Hewitt. RA is in two weeks.*

Budget: - [5 minutes]

Annual budget presentation to Rep Council. To be voted on at the April Rep Meeting. No local dues increase

New Business – [10 minutes]

Sherry Karcher-Hewitt – constituent concerned in Spec. Ed – one of the Principals with blessing of Deputy Director is directing teachers to adjust recommended frequencies of related services without discussing with the provider. Changes have been made. Flora had spoken to Peter and it relates to the audit and billable time for Medicaid. The whole thing seems unethical. No one has called Flora so it is hard for her to deal with it.

Standing Committees:

Membership – went down, agency fee went up, some recalls so sent letters out

Negotiations Update: – update – meeting Monday about health insurance with NYSUT's expert.

Audit: – finished

Nominating: Cathy Jakway –

President – Doug Harple, Frank Ando (heating/ventilation teacher)

VP – Pat Gollub, another nomination but person hasn't been reached to accept

CTE – Jeannine Moran, Christopher Lanese,

All other officers running unopposed.

Election: – Constitution allows walk-in or mail ballot.

Exec. Bd. Recommends mailing. Motion made/s/c to do mail in ballot. A committee formed – Rit Lupi, Susan Kusalonis, Erica Dow, Need someone from TA. Cut-off date will be May 2nd

Select Committees:

TRIAD – next Tuesday

Social Committee – have received no more e-mails about potential retirees, need to reach out to people that are retiring or who retired last year after the dinner

FYI TOPICS: - [5 minutes]

- Discussion of NYSUT Issues – Challenge to NYSUT Officers (ReviveNYSUT.org)
- Gas Pipeline – Schoharie County – anyone interested in working on this or finding what we can do, see us. Goes too close to CTE center. 124 miles of pipeline.
- RAD soap fundraiser at Maywood School to purchase equipment and picnic tables for students. Mary Ruby spoke about this, but any staff at Maywood can get you order forms.

Teaching Assistants/Aides

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Dear Constituents:

As I write this article, the calendar says it is springtime but the freezing cold air is feeling more like winter. The weather has been brutally cold and I can't wait for some warm sunshine on my face. I am sure I am not the only one who feels this way. I am ready to shed the layers of clothes and get outside to do some yard work. This winter has gone on far too long.

Another thing that has gone on far too long is the Health Insurance discussions. The Teacher, Service and Teaching Assistant/Aide chapters met with NYSUT yesterday to go over the proposal. Sue Klug, NYSUT's Health Insurance expert, perused the draft document and made some very good recommendations. Mike Rowan will be contacting administration and hopefully each Chapter will be able to get to the table soon. It will take some time and patience to get this all ironed out to our satisfaction. I wish things did not have to move so slowly but it is better to move cautiously than to rush into something that we could regret farther down the road. We need to dot all our i's and cross all our t's. More information will be coming soon on the negotiation front.

All the candidates for the TA/Aide Show Case on May 20, 2014 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM have been selected and contacted. Thank you to all the candidates for sharing their special projects to their colleagues. I know you have been working diligently to complete your projects and implement them into your classroom. This year's Show Case candidates

are **Michele Angelo, Karen Brayton, Kerry Culora, Kelly Dover, Jody Lysiak, Sue Pieniazek, Natalie Powell, Kevin Rheden, Elizabeth Spencer, Alexander Stern, and Julie Wilson.** Please come out on May 3rd to support your friends and colleagues. This day is all about you and the wonderful things you do for children in our educational environment.

Don't forget to vote for your Executive Board officers in April. I was surprised when I heard there were only 16 nomination forms submitted to the Nomination Chairperson. Voting for who you want to represent you is an important part of being a member of a Association. Exercise your voice and submit your ballot, so your voice is heard loud and clear. In my world being complacent is not an option. I want my voice heard and opinions valued. I want the same for each of you. Keep an eye out in the mail for your ballot, please don't throw it away. This is your Association and the work we do is vitally important.

In closing, I hope everyone who wants to work summer school, was able to access the user friendly form on the computer and send it to Jean Usher. I don't know what the numbers are yet, but hopefully everyone who wants a position will get a position this summer. Keep thinking spring and perhaps the sunshine and warmth will come shining through for each of us. Take care everyone and stay positive!

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora

Dates to remember:

April 10-13—AFT National Higher Education Issues Conference, Baltimore

April 15—Passover Starts

April 20—Easter Sunday

April 26—NYSUT Professional Issues Forum on Health Care, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY

May 9—BOCES Spring Prom, Ramada Inn, Albany

May 15—Celebration Bash, Mohawk River County Club

RETIREEES CORNER

By Jeanette Christoff

Happy Spring?

While our weekend newspaper is filled with ads for shorts, sandals, T-shirts and beachwear, our laundry basket is filled with woolen socks, sweaters, long johns and hoodies. An array of boots lines our garage; snow boots, rain boots, cleat boots and more. Our neighbor tries to reassure us that March will 'go out like a lamb'. We hope. For some long-retired, it is just easier to stay home. The cold seems more piercing than it used to be, and outdoor walking always carries the threat of a fall.

During our winter of hibernation, we learned some things that were of interest to us and perhaps will be to others.

- Los Angeles police officers are now wearing cameras to record conversations and situations. The cameras may be on their chest, lapel or sunglasses. This trend is spreading across the nation. The film can be used to verify information and may be used as evidence. There is concern that nearby conversations could also be recorded. (Gazette, 3/16/2014, p. A-1)
- When turned on, smartphones emit a signal. Some department stores have sensors which can pick up the signal and monitor their customers and their shopping habits as they traverse the aisles and mall. (Gazette, 2/20/2014, p. A-4).
- In the 1980's, the amount of mercury in single-use batteries was reduced by about 98 percent. The frequently used 2As, 3As, Cs and Ds may be thrown into the trash in all states except in California. Re-

chargeable batteries must still be recycled. (Gazette, 3/9/14, E-8).

- Amazon is working on a way to deliver packages to customers in 30 minutes via a self-guided drone. It would use GPS coordinates for location. (Gazette 12/3/13).
- The Xbox One is a TV entertainment center that has a camera and microphone that is always on. According to the Gazette, "It watches you, it greets you, it knows you, it never stops listening. It anticipates your needs." Microsoft insists that it won't watch you if you don't want it to. (6/2/2013. P. D-1.).
- It was a good find to discover that the Smithsonian Channel is available without the per program fee of the past.

We hope our readers have found something of interest in our bits and pieces. Spring arrives in a few days in spite of our recent below average temps. This endless cold awakened a memory of a presentation on the History or NatGO channel, telling of a year when it snowed in June. It was labeled as 'The year without summer'. When did it happen? Could it happen again? A search informed us that it happened in 1816.*

The cause was attributed to the eruption of the Tambora volcano in Indonesia. The volcano spewed massive amounts of dust and hot gasses into the atmosphere, reducing the sun's intensity and wreaking havoc on many countries in the northern hemisphere with the weather, growing crops and life. It is a relief to know that we should not have to worry about snow in June and maybe by the time you read this, those winter coats can be put away. *(The Reporter, Brattleboro, VT. 7/17/1816)

Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD

The articles contained in the TRIAD do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Executive Board, Rep Council or the Communication Committee of the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association.. Articles are strictly for your information and enjoyment.

From the Editor's Desk

By Lanny Barsale, Co-Editor

From the Editor's desk

Last month I got something I didn't think I would get until I was a lot older. A handicapped parking tag. It was a bit of a shock to me that I needed it but I realized that I couldn't keep asking my friends to drive me up to the store door. At first it made me feel more disabled. But later I realized that it was giving me my independence. Now I can go shopping on my own. I can park near the door and get a motorized cart. Then I have to be willing to ask for help to get my purchases to the car.

However, I'm learning a lot about handicapped accessibility. I know there are laws in place but you can tell which businesses really try to do the best for their customers. It's not enough to have the parking spots if the person can't get around once he/she gets in the store. I have found that I have to limit myself to the stores that provide motorized carts. And that's another issue. My local Walmart has two entries and you never know which one will have the carts. And they are not good about making sure that the batteries are charged. My local Price Chopper, on the other hand, always has the carts in the same place and plugged in. If a cart has been in use a long time, they put a sign on it so you don't use that one. BJ's in Albany keeps the keys and the carts are jammed into a spot where it is difficult to get one out. They are not as consistent about ensuring that they are charged. BJ's in Schenectady has them lined up neatly and with easy access. They are always plugged in and ready to go.

One other interesting thing is the number of handicapped spaces and the proximity of those spaces. I was at Stewart's the other day, and the handicapped space was farther from the door than the other spaces because they had the ramp there. Not that you could have gotten a wheelchair up that ramp since it was on a slope. This is true at times in other parking lots. I also go to places where the need for these spaces is huge and yet no more spaces than any other place. I find I have a really hard time finding an open space at the Bone and Joint Center. Does anyone else have a problem with that?

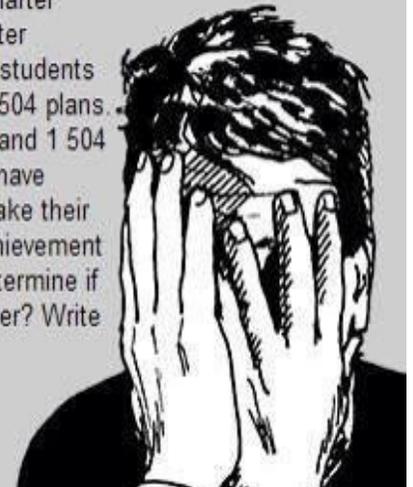
Some interesting places that are not in compliance are our own BOCES stand-alone schools. I am at RA II and there is one handicapped space. It's also in a fire lane which means if we have a fire, I have to move my car quickly. The spaces at Maywood are being used by the school vans and others without tags. I think this could be an issue. What do you think? Plus, recently I went to the CTE center and there was no handicapped parking space near the entrance to the dining room. However, there are some on the other side of the building.

Now, I am blessed because I will be having hip surgery after school lets out and after a couple of months, I will no longer need the parking tag. Well, at least not for a while. But I can see that the law has a lot of holes. So, since I will have time on my hands after I'm done with my teaching career, that could be a project for me. Before I need the tag again, I'd like to see changes made that allow the disabled better access and the ability to be more independent. Stores that are not user friendly to these folks should be held accountable. We should all be looking into this situation. I'm sure that we all either have a family member or friend who is impacted by the lack of attention to our disabled folks. With some adjustments to the current regulations, the law would make sense and many would benefit. Think about what you could do.

In solidarity, Lanny Barsale

Mr. Jackson has 27 students. He has received 9 new students from charter schools. 3 students left for charter schools and 2 were expelled. 8 students have IEPs and 3 students have 504 plans. However, 2 IEPs were modified and 1 504 plan expired. 19 students don't have supplies and 6 students didn't take their medicine today for the Ohio Achievement Assessment. How does this determine if Mr. Jackson is a "skilled" teacher? Write an equation and solve.

someecards
user card



Board Meeting Notes – March 17, 2014

Attending: Susan Kusalonis

Privilege of the Floor – Cathy Lewis, President of the NYS School Boards Association

Invited the group to attend the April 10th meeting on Common Core at Watervliet

District Superintendent: Dr. Dedrick

Reviewed the 2014-15 Calendar and asked Board Members to verify the Dates listed below:

July 10th Reorganization Meeting, August 25th, September 15th, October 20th; November 17th, December 15th, January 22nd; February 12th; March 16th; April 1st Annual Meeting, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th.

These dates are not official until the Annual meeting occurs to vote on them.

Mark Jones was asked to give a brief description on his doctoral thesis entitled “Superintendents Perception of BOCES and Factors that Impact Decisions to use BOCES Services”

He noted that of the 283 surveys sent out he received 41% back from all over the state. (I did not take many notes as this was too detailed and fast).

Committee Reports: (7:20 PM)

Legislative Advisory Committee – Lynn Lenhardt

Very important the Board members call their legislators and let them know about our budget concerns. New legislators **will not** go up against the Governor.

Audit Committee: Bruce Bonaquist

Some findings are:

- Users identity issues with sharing passwords – has been addressed and this no longer happens.
- Journal entry review – Everyone is compliant
- Work Order Process at CTE – concerns not being processed in appropriate manner. Request a follow-up on this at end of year to see if being done. Mark Jones is being given responsibility to align for the new fiscal year.

Business Items –

Adoption of the 2014-15 BOCES Budgets

Increase in Special Ed Budget – Mark had to respond to questions from districts. There were a number of years when tuition was not aligned; structural imbalances have all come to a head. DS staff will have a difficult time taming this issue!!

No surpluses at this time. All open positions have been filled. \$32 million dollar budget could cause us to lose more kids in Special Ed Program. A large amount of time has been spent by administration working on this. If it keeps unraveling cost factor may greatly impact Spec. Ed. Staff.

There is the possibility that Districts may form Inter-municipal agreements to lower costs, no debt to account for and less transportation costs.

Comment by Board member: In the Schoharie district a TA spoke at board meeting asking her district to bring back the “out sourced” students. Stated term ‘out sourced’ several times (which means sent to BOCES).

Per Mark Jones the Related Service and Itinerant costs are only up 1.34%.

At end of this discussion it was moved that they go into executive session to review tenure recommendations, discuss a specific Personnel Matter and a Real Estate Issue.

Meeting ended at 7:45 PM

Thank You!

This is, a Thank You Note, to all I had the chance to serve with, teachers who became my mentors, and co-workers I shared the daily care of students with their special needs.

It is with honor and privilege that I feel, to have been a part of this family, namely, BOCES.

It brought me so close to a reality that although I was aware of, but never so close to touch and be with, live with, every day, hoping the next day, next week, next year, a student will smile, will spell, will read, will graduate and another student ready to replace the one that left with the same effort and hope.

My life experience, in a global world, was not enough, and I tried to learn more in any way I could.

When I first communicate with some of our deaf children, tears came to my eyes, for it became possible for me to convince two young students, that music was for inner feelings, we all share, not necessary for the ones who can hear and listen to.

I will leave with a hope, that BOCES will always be present and available, helping an imperfection of nature, family, social and cultural differences, bringing hope in sharing a positive future.

As a substitute, I once read the dreams of young students, written on a poster saying of their dreams for their families:

That my family argues less.

That my parents will not divorce.

That we will have fun together.

That their dreams come true.

That my family have dinner together.

That I will earn 10 out of 10 smiles

That we play together

That we help each other when we're sick.

Written by 8 students, age 7 and 8 years old, reflecting the world we live in.

Michos Tzovaras TA—Special Education

The TRIAD is published monthly for the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Membership. We appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have.

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AND TRIAD NEWSLETTER
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Earth Day—April 22, 2014

Kids activities: NickJr.com/earthday



**Members
We need your help!**

Anyone that has been with BOCES for 20—25—30—35 years needs to contact Carolyn Pierce at carbeattie@aol.com. The Association would like to invite you to the Celebration Bash for a free dinner and thank you for your time with BOCES. We have been unable to receive an accurate list from HR at this time and don't want to leave anyone out.

Sunshine Chairperson

If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up, our sympathy, or a get well card, please contact:

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Please contact **Gina Hanley**, Membership Chair, with any change in mailing address or to give her your personal email. You can reach her at gahanley97@gmail.com. In doing so, you will be assured of receiving all that correspondence that the Association will send you including your newsletter, the TRIAD.